

# **WATER TRANSFERS PROGRAM**

## **AGENCIES AND STAFF INVOLVED WITH IMPLEMENTATION**

**CALFED**

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# **WATER TRANSFERS PROGRAM YEAR 2 ASSESSMENT**

## Primary Accomplishments Year 2:

- Continued to operate the On-Tap website on USBR's server
- DWR, USBR and the SWRCB entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for implementation of a Water Transfers Information Clearing House.
- Participated in SWRCB's Water Transfer workgroup which utilized the public involvement/stakeholder activities undertaken by the SWRCB in the development of "Water Transfer Issues in California"
- Published a series of papers on water transfers involving groundwater substitution and crop shifting/fallowing
- Developed a Water Transfers web page on the DWR website

## Primary Accomplishments Year 2: Continued

- Developed and implemented an approach to determining carriage water requirements for transfers on a real-time basis. This process was developed in coordination with the Bay-Delta Modeling Forum
- Continued to refine refill criteria on a case-by-case basis
- Successfully assisted in the transfer of water. Each year numerous water transfers take place within water districts and within and between the CVP service areas in the San Joaquin Basin. In addition to these transfers, in the dry year of 2001 over 600,000 acre-feet was transferred by the CALFED Agencies. In 2002, a dry/below normal year, over 300,000 acre-feet of water was transferred by CALFED Agencies.

## Issues/Delays

- Implementation of Phase 1 of the development of the On-Tap website has been delayed due to unforeseen complications in the USBR contracting process.
- The effort to improve instream water tracking protocols being coordinated with the Environmental Restoration Program is still identifying streams and not yet ready to refine the tracking protocols.

# **WATER TRANSFERS PROGRAM YEAR 3 WORK PLAN**

## Primary Tasks and Schedule

### 1. Increase the availability of existing facilities for water transfers

- Evaluate Shared Plan of Use for Central Valley Project and State Water Project
- Develop method Primary Tasks and Schedule s to better define cross delta conveyance capacity based on SWP allocations and estimates of SWP contractor transfers, EWA pumping, CVP use of joint point.
- Evaluate ability to sell SWP allocations to EWA

## Primary Tasks and Schedule Continued

### 2. Lower transaction costs through permit streamlining and improved contracting processes.

- Identify standard mitigation measures and where applicable cumulative impact thresholds to address socioeconomic impacts, with EWA EIR/EIS
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- Agreement with Butte County to prepare an evaluation of the socioeconomic affects of water transfers.
- The SWRCB will continue to evaluate its change petition process to expedite short-term transfers.
- Assist in the review of proposed water transfers.

## Primary Tasks and Schedule Continued

### 3. Increase availability of market information to stakeholder and permitting communities.

- This activity will continue the operation and development of the On-Tap website and the Water Transfer Clearinghouse. The USBR will manage a contract that provides for:
  1. Coordination of continued On Tap website development
  2. Refinement of existing website information
  3. Preparation of a website user manual/guide
  4. Preparation of a database update manual
  5. Transfer of the website to the USBR web server

## Issues/Delays

- None



## **WATER TRANSFERS PROGRAM**

### Major State 1 Decision Points/Triggers

- None
- All ROD deadlines have been met
- Ongoing ROD commitments continue to be addressed

## **WATER TRANSFERS PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS TO STATE 1 FUNDING**

### Adjustments/Changes to Stage 1 Total Funding

- Original estimate of \$3 million per year reducing to \$1 million by Year 7
  - Original Total Stage 1 - \$15 million
- Revised budget - \$1.83 million in First Year reducing to .56 million by Year 3 and there after
  - Revised Total Stage 1 - \$5.6 million
- Reason for Decrease -- State General Fund Budget Cuts and Lack of Federal Funding

## **WATER TRANSFERS PROGRAM PROPOSED CHANGES TO CATEGORY A OR B**

- None

## **WATER TRANSFERS PROGRAM YEAR 3 MANAGEMENT GROUP ROLE**

- Management Team Review of the Recommendations of the SWRCB's Water Transfers Issues in California June 2002 Report –November 2002
- Management Team Review of On Tap Refinements – February 2003